



# THE CERULEAN

Spring - 2010, Vol. 7, No. 1

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Quarterly Newsletter of the **Ohio Ornithological Society**: *Ohio's Birding Network*

## from the EDITOR

Join OOS this spring on International Migratory Bird Day. We'll have a booth Saturday, May 8 and Sunday, May 9 at the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area parking lot. We'll have a special IMBD raffle on Saturday. Plus, all *new* members joining in-person during IMBD weekend receive an OOS tee-shirt: *renewing* members at the \$100 level get an OOS gift package. We'll also have the Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp available for sale.

Another reason to visit our booth? Sign-up for a Saturday evening Woodcock Watch: details and directions at the booth. Our May 8 Woodcock Walk is free, but we'll be collecting donations for *The Friends of Magee Marsh!* Please read page 8 to discover the many projects *The Friends* do for boardwalk birders. It's an honor for OOS to help this worthy "Crane Creek" cause!

There's an important research study underway on how *our birding dollars impact Ohio's economy*. Bowling Green State University's Philip Xie Ph.D. wants to gauge the collective socio-economic benefits of spring and fall birding at Lake Erie. We should have copies of Xie's survey for your input! We'll also make a link available on our website.

Volunteers are needed to help staff the OOS IMBD booth! Contact either Dana Bollin ([dkbollin@gmail.com](mailto:dkbollin@gmail.com)) or Ann Oliver ([annieobirder@yahoo.com](mailto:annieobirder@yahoo.com)) to help OOS.

Ann Oliver, Editor of *The Cerulean*  
-Cincinnati

## BREEDING BIRD WORKSHOP AT THE EDGE OF APPALACHIA PRESERVE

Expert birders from the Ohio Ornithological Society, Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, and The Nature Conservancy will team up for a breeding bird workshop Friday, May 28 to Sunday, May 30 at The Edge of Appalachia Preserve (EOA). Bird ecology and vocalizations will be emphasized.



***The announcement of this event was emailed to members on Friday, April 9th. Capacity (24 participants) for the workshop was filled immediately.***

Adams and Scioto counties in extreme southern Ohio harbor *the richest diversity of breeding birds in the state*. More than 100 species breed in this region, including sought after specialties. We hope to see Chuck-will's-widow on the nest, as well as hearing them at night. Blue Grosbeak, Henslow's Sparrow, and many species of warbler including Prairie, Cerulean, and Worm-eating will be observed. As a bonus, nearby prairies and woodlands abound with interesting native plants, many of them rare. Along with flora, we'll see scores of butterflies and noteworthy insects.

This workshop will be based at the new Eulett Center in Adams County's Ohio Brush Creek Valley. Friday evening starts with an overview of the vast EOA Preserve: we'll also look and listen for nocturnal creatures. Saturday, we'll bird areas in Adams County and nearby Shawnee State Forest then enjoy an evening warbler program. Sunday morning, additional birding, then depart for home after lunch.

We apologize if you did not receive the OOS email offering the EOA workshop. ***Please send us your current email address so we can contact you in the future with special offerings for OOS members:*** [oosmember@gmail.com](mailto:oosmember@gmail.com). Thanks!

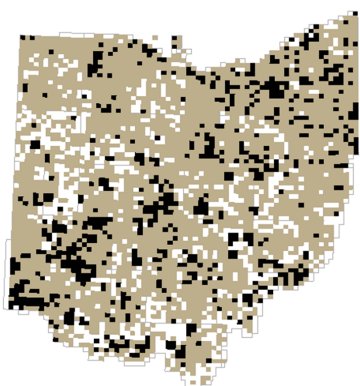
Jim McCormac, OOS President



## WHAT'S NEW WITH OBBA II?

### What's The Status Of OBBA II?

The Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II (OBBA II) is a large-scale effort to document the distribution and conservation status of Ohio's breeding birds from 2006 to 2011. The Atlas is possible through the assistance of hundreds of citizen volunteers and other in-kind contributions from conservation groups, as well as federal, state, and local agencies. With help from over 900 volunteers, OBBA II has documented 203 species of breeding birds across

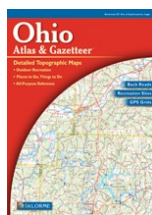


Map showing complete atlas blocks in black, blocks with some data in gray, and blocks lacking data in white. Image courtesy OBBA II.

Ohio: breeding is confirmed for 187 species. Of the 4,437 blocks in Ohio, 15% are now considered complete and approximately 82% of Atlas blocks now have data. Atlasers have amassed nearly 300,000 individual breeding bird records from 2006 to 2009!

### Can Birders Still Get Involved?

Yes, engaging citizens in this effort has been an ongoing goal of OBBA II and will continue to the end of the project. Every contribution is important and dedicated individuals can contribute enough data to dramatically expand coverage within atlas regions (a page of the DeLorme Gazetteer). If you are new to the Atlas, visit our project website or contact our office to find out how you can contribute: [ohiobirds.org/obba2/](http://ohiobirds.org/obba2/) or call 614-247-6458. If you are already involved and know anyone who might be interested in contributing, please give them our contact information. We encourage all people interested in birds to participate!



DeLorme Gazetteer.

There is still much work to be done on OBBA II. We have entered the last and most important years of the project (2010 and 2011), so now is the time to get on board!! (Note that OBBA II has been extended to include fieldwork in 2011). We still very much need new volunteers in the project and need



Female Black-and-white Warbler with nesting material. Photo courtesy David Lewis.

to engage those that signed-up earlier and have yet to get to the field (or simply haven't submitted records, we can't tell the difference!). If you haven't heard of OBBA II, please know that anyone interested in birds can contribute in both large and

small ways. You do not need years of birding experience to contribute to our understanding of the distribution of Ohio's breeding birds. ***OBBA II is the most expansive and in-depth survey of Ohio's birdlife ever attempted. Anyone can contribute, at any level – be a part of ornithological history as we complete the project.***

### Does OBBA II Have New Developments?

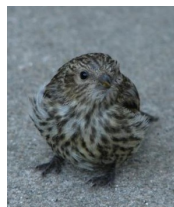
Fieldwork OBBA II will continue an extra year to 2011, making it similar in length to Ohio's first breeding bird atlas. This will allow us to achieve our goals of documenting breeding birds in every atlas block and complete statewide point-counts.

We have lowered time requirements for non-priority blocks to make it easier to complete blocks. If you have signed up for blocks, please strive to attain the original goal of at least 75% of the expected species total, but 10-15 hours of field observation may be sufficient. For some blocks, or some volunteers, 75% may be a difficult goal. If you and other contributors have spent over 25 hours in a block and have not reached this goal, please contact us or your Regional Coordinator and we'll see what we can do to help.



For volunteers who enter data online, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology updated some aspects of the data entry pages on our web site. Mapping features now include Google Maps as a backdrop for ease of navigation and identification of lands in Ohio. The look is slightly different, but block maps and species lists are now easier to obtain. Thanks CLO!

### Any Notable Breeding Birds In 2009?



Juvenile Pine Siskin in Toledo in early June. Photo courtesy Jackie Riley.

Yes, the efforts of Atlas volunteers, Regional Coordinators, and seasonal staff resulted in a long list of fantastic breeding records. After a sizeable

OBBA II, Continued on Page 3



## How To Contribute to OBBA II



Submit any other records, field notes, and species lists back to 2006!! All we need is a date and specific location (street address, lat/long coordinates) to turn many spring and summer records that you already have into OBBA II records. If interested, please mail us copies of your field lists or scan these records and email to us. This is one of the easiest ways to contribute your Atlas records.

If you are already signed-up, please try to finish your blocks in 2010 so that we can make better plans to finish the project. Then, please try to add species to new blocks in 2011. By 2011, we expect that almost all blocks will have data, so it will be a matter of adding to blocks with data....very important to getting it all done.

Whether or not you wish to “own” blocks, please ask us or a Regional Coordinator where you can best contribute your time or get online and choose areas on your own. Spend some time birding in spring-summer and keep track of species, dates, and time in the field. We have OBBA II check-lists available on the website (under “materials”).

Help organize a day or weekend in the field for your local bird or nature club. Group atlasing of several blocks in an area (often called block busting) can add large amounts of data and expose new people to the Atlas. Please check with us so we can offer suggestions about areas needing attention. Also, we have often been able to send 1-2 experienced birders from our paid staff to help out groups.

Tell a friend about the Atlas or bring someone into the field with you!

It is now more essential that data are submitted in a timely manner. A major advance for OBBA II is the ability to quickly submit data online so that volunteers, Regional Coordinators, and OBBA II staff in Columbus can target gaps in coverage. For example, data collected in 25 precious hours of your field time would be wasted if others are unaware that data exist for the block and they duplicate your efforts during another 20 hours of field time. So, please submit older data *as*

*soon as possible* so we can better manage volunteers and staff during the homestretch of the Atlas. Please enter new data within a few days if possible, but if it takes more than 2-3 weeks, let us enter it for you -- you would still be able to add or change data in your online account.

*OBBA II, Continued*



North Chagrin Pine Siskin with what appears to be nesting material.  
Photo courtesy Dennis McDonnell.

winter 2009 invasion, **Pine Siskins** remained to breed in unprecedented numbers with breeding season records coming from 32 different blocks around the state; 20 blocks had confirmed breeding records!

After several Ohio records of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in 2007 and 2008, Troy Shively observed fledged young (a first Ohio breeding record to our



Eurasian Collared-Dove carrying nesting material to the top of a Celina grain elevator.  
Photo courtesy Troy Shively.

knowledge) in mid-June in Logan County where an adult was seen carrying nesting material early in the year, and juveniles were seen in June. This species, introduced to the Bahamas in the mid-70s, is now established in gulf coastal areas, and is rapidly spreading to other regions of the United States.

In mid-July, John Pogacnik observed a female **Merlin** feeding young in Lake County after observing a pair of adults on occasion in June. Merlins are currently expanding southward as a breeding bird into New York and Pennsylvania. This may be the first (documented) nesting in Ohio since 1858, although Peterjohn (2001) stated there were no indisputable breeding records for Ohio. Either way, Merlin is a stellar breeding bird for Ohio and the Atlas!



Merlin observed in August at Carver Pond, Lake County near breeding site.  
Photo courtesy Tom Frankel.



Wintertime aerial view of the location of 2009 breeding Merlin: the nest appeared to be in the trees along the shoreline. Lake Metroparks is in the process of purchasing this nearly 700 acre tract.  
Photo courtesy John Pogacnik.

*Continued on Page 4*



## Who Coordinates and Sponsors OBBA II ?

The past year was one of much change. Aaron Boone, the Alas project coordinator since 2006, left Ohio to take a full-time biologist position in his home state of Illinois – OBBA II thanks Aaron for his extensive contributions to the project. After four months without a coordinator, OBBA II hired Matthew Shumar. Matt is originally from southwestern Pennsylvania and has worked on wildlife research projects throughout much of the eastern U.S. He received a B.S. in Wildlife & Fisheries Science from Penn State University. He recently completed a M.S. degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Resources at West Virginia University where his research focused on landscape ecology and developing predictive models for Cerulean Warblers in the Appalachians.



Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II is coordinated by the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State and is funded by the ODNR-Division of Wildlife. The Atlas Advisory Board includes Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Ohio Ornithological Society,

Powdermill Nature Reserve, and Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife. OOS generously provides space on their web site for OBBA II.



Please visit the OBBA II website <http://ohiobirds.org/obba2/> or contact us directly: Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II, School of Environment & Natural Resources, The Ohio State University, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, OH 43210. E-mail: [ohiobba2@gmail.com](mailto:ohiobba2@gmail.com), Phone: 614-247-6458. Many thanks for your support of Ohio's second breeding bird atlas!

Paul Rodewald and Matthew Shumar  
*Ohio Breeding Bird Atlas II*



Wood Ducks. Photo courtesy Dennis McDonnell.

## FLAP: FATAL LIGHT AWARENESS PROGRAM



As the moon and stars light night skies, high echoing chirps of migration drift across North America. From lift-off in the jungles of Costa Rica to landing at Shawnee State Forest or Magee Marsh, migration is fraught with exertion and peril. Man-made buildings and towers, lit with beacons of confusion, increase the fatalities of feathered migrants.

Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP), a registered charity, was formed in Toronto to “safeguard migratory birds in the urban environment through education, research, rescue and rehabilitation.” Efforts include a power conservation-friendly movement to darken the city’s evening profile by turning out lights. During morning hours, volunteers patrol Toronto’s downtown core to rescue injured birds (before they become prey for feral cats) and collect the dead ones. Even collected remains become useful in the education portion of their program.

Glass kills and light pollution create a deadly distraction and confusion for migratory species—from warbler to goshawk. Add light rain or fog and you have a recipe for disaster. Window strikes are reported to be the largest single human-related factor of bird deaths, causing *100 to 900 million fatalities per year*. High-rise office buildings and home owners are encouraged to turn off non-essential lights, especially during migration seasons.

The FLAP website ([www.flap.org/flap\\_home.htm](http://www.flap.org/flap_home.htm)) states: “A migratory bird has a 43% chance of encountering a human-built obstruction as it travels to and from its breeding territory each year. With intensified urban sprawl, society's fixation with lighting up the night sky and the increasing use of reflective glass for construction, that percentage will grow alarmingly.”

Bird watchers in New York, Chicago and Indianapolis have joined efforts to reduce city-wide bird strikes and rescue birds impacted by collisions. Lets support safe bird travel throughout Ohio, too.

Cheryl Harner, *Greater Mohican Audubon Society*

## SMART LIGHT-SAFE FLIGHT: PARTNERSHIP TO CONSERVE MIGRATORY BIRDS & ENERGY IN CLEVELAND AND THROUGHOUT OHIO

**Smart Light-Safe Flight Ohio**, the program to conserve migratory birds and energy, seeks to enlist owners and managers of tall buildings, particularly downtown skyscrapers, to turn off or significantly dim their lights after 11:30 pm during the height of spring and fall bird migration. This would run from mid-March to mid-June and again from mid-August to mid-November. The result would be a significant reduction in energy use and bird collisions. Participating businesses will save energy, money, and project an environmentally friendly public image.

Background: during spring and fall migratory seasons, large numbers of birds come through the region, often flying at night. Under certain environmental conditions, the birds are inextricably drawn to the lighted buildings where they either collide with the building or circle the building until exhausted. The toll a single building can take can be staggering. In Cleveland, 679 birds were salvaged from the sidewalks around one building on Public Square in 2005 alone!



Moonrise over Cleveland.  
Photo courtesy Dennis McDonnell.

*The most extreme threat is nights with a low cloud ceiling or foggy conditions. By monitoring atmospheric conditions, building owners, operators and tenants*

*could turn off the lights on those nights when the threat is greatest. However for a variety of business purposes, cleaning, safety or organizational reasons, this is not practical. So we are proposing a different approach.*

By turning off the lights of tall buildings from 11:30 pm to 5:00 am in the migratory seasons, March 15 through June 15 and August 15 through November 15, the threat is greatly diminished. What we envision is a *win-win opportunity* for building owners and bird conservation. By participating in **Smart Light-Safe Flight** and turning the lights out during these times, building owners and managers would save energy and simultaneously

save birds from the hazards the buildings pose. The building owners and managers project a green and sustainable image and save money!

Yes, there will be times when the buildings need to be lit for publicity and marketing purposes (i.e. NBA finals or other times when downtown Cleveland is the centerpiece of regional or national media attention). *The idea is to reduce the threat by turning the lights out when and where possible.*

### **Smart Light-Safe Flight Ohio**

will create and provide resources and materials so building owners and managers can actively publicize their environmental image. The partnership will provide educational materials and programming on bird migration for the benefit of building tenants. The partnership will create and maintain a website where building owners will be recognized for their participation in this endeavor in sustainability.



Geese over Cleveland.  
Image courtesy Dennis McDonnell.

Similar programs are in Chicago, Milwaukee, Indianapolis and New York under the banner **Lights Out**. Though we embrace the concept adopted by those cities, we have heard from several quarters that the term 'Lights Out' has negative connotations for a rust belt city with a declining manufacturing base. Hence **Smart Light-Safe Flight Ohio**.

Beyond nighttime illumination of buildings, there are many other hazards posed by man-made structures to migratory birds—collisions with windows, communications towers, and wind turbines. We aim to be a regional resource for information on mitigating all threats posed by those structures.

We are keen on getting this program established in 2010. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History seeks corporate and conservation partners to join and provide a collaborative network for regional and state-wide implementation.



Interested? Please contact Harvey Webster, Director of Wildlife Resources at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History at 216-231-4600 ext 3290 or at [hwebster@cmnh.org](mailto:hwebster@cmnh.org).

## BIRDING BY EAR: GUIDE TO LEARNING BIRD SONGS

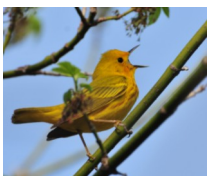
Spring migration is here, and the mating season is under way. I don't know about you, but I await a new season of the dawn chorus. American Robins and Northern Cardinals, Carolina Wrens and Wood Thrushes, Indigo Buntings and Eastern Towhees – I can't begin to pick my favorite bird song, they are all so beautiful.



Indigo Bunting. Photo courtesy Jim Mundy ([www.naturesarkphotography.com](http://www.naturesarkphotography.com)).

But what if you don't know who's singing? Does it sound like noise? Beautiful noise, to be sure, but perhaps it's just a string of random songs? If that's the case, I hope my birding by ear tips will help you enjoy and learn the songs of our avian friends.

I think the most common complaint is that it's hard to remember what song goes with what bird. Never mind keeping all the little call notes straight (how can a "chip" sound be made so many different



Yellow Warbler. Photo courtesy Renee Tressler.

ways?! And songs of first year males versus more mature males? *Forget about it!* Having said that, I acknowledge that I still have a lot to learn about birdsong, but here are some tips based on my experience.

**-Start small, start easy.** Start with what you know. We all have backyard birds whose sound we would know blindfolded. For example, the Carolina Wren sings "Teakettle, teakettle, teakettle." The next step is to start listening for other sounds they make. Like their sweet little "Cheer!" call or their raucous scolding sounds, among others.

**-Spend as much time with the birds as you can.** Whether it's in your own backyard, your favorite park, at the lake, along a bike trail, in the meadow - whatever habitat is most accessible for you, go there as often as you can. Watch birds, listen to birds. I live on a heavily wooded plot of land, so we get lots of woodland birds. I have been able to learn nuances of birds like the Eastern Phoebe (song, chip, and a funny little trill call), the scolding calls of Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, and Carolina Wren, and many variations of the

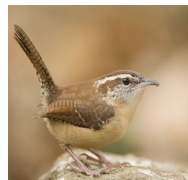


Eastern Phoebe. Photo courtesy Heather Aubke.

Eastern Towhee's song ("Drink your teeeeee!", "tow-HEE," "che-WINK," and "WE-cher").

**-Create mnemonic devices helpful to you.**

Your personal memory aids may be different from the way songs are written in the field guides. Typically, the Carolina Wren is quoted as saying "Teakettle, teakettle, teakettle", but sometimes that



Carolina Wren.

Photo courtesy Jim Mundy ([www.naturesarkphotography.com](http://www.naturesarkphotography.com)).

song sounds to me, like "Cheater, cheater, cheater" or "Secret, secret, secret" (when I'm hungry, it can even sound like "Cheeseburger, cheeseburger, cheeseburger"!).

Perhaps my favorite mnemonic that I came up with is for the Northern Cardinal and one of its call notes: "VRIT, VRIT" sounds just like corduroy pant legs rubbing together.

**-Think of bird song as the voice of your friends.**

How many people do you know by the sound of their voice? You can know the birds the same way.

**-Make a visual connection if you can.**

This can be difficult, especially with skulkers like Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, and countless warblers.

However, seeing the bird sing can help make the link in your mind that will cement the song and/or call in your brain for good. It's what helped me identify a string of "Cheer!" calls with the Carolina Wren, and the short little bubble-burst of song with the Henslow's Sparrow.



Ovenbird. Photo courtesy Renee Tressler.

**-Don't try to learn all the birds at once.**

Much like being in a room full of people, all the voices can easily blend into a dull roar. Instead of trying to know them all, pick one or two voices out of the crowd and concentrate on them.

**-Spend time with other birders.** Go on bird walks and field trips. I've never been on a bird walk that didn't address bird song. Everyone wants to share anecdotes about "their" birds, and you just might pick up a vital clue to a mystery song from a fellow birder! A great opportunity for such learning is the 6<sup>th</sup> annual "Birding by Ear Weekend" at *the Wilds*, June 4-6 (for details and to register, go to [thewilds.org/events/bird\\_by\\_ear.asp](http://thewilds.org/events/bird_by_ear.asp)).

*Continued on Page 7*



**-Don't be afraid to be wrong.** Sometimes you may think you've learned a song, only to be corrected by a more experienced birder. A number of bird songs are described in such similar terms that they get mixed up in your head when starting out. Descriptions that are variations on a Robin are a good example – like the “Robin with a sore throat” which is the Scarlet Tanager, or the “Robin who took voice lessons” which is the Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

**-Use auditory resources.** From BirdJam to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website to book/CD combos, there are lots of good auditory resources out there to help you learn bird songs. Use them!



**-Reinforce what you do know.** Something that's helpful to me is to call out the bird's name when I hear it. Last summer I learned the Acadian Flycatcher's song at *the Wilds*, and was able to identify those drab birds in our woods. However, since the song was still new to me, I would call out "Acadian Flycatcher" every time I heard it to help reinforce the connection.

**-Try to learn at least one song on your own.** This is a powerful tool in birding by ear. The first song I learned was Wood Thrush. It was the second spring after I had really gotten into birding when I heard those ethereal flute-like notes and said "Holy cow, what is that?!!!" It took days of sifting through sound files on Cornell's site, but I finally stumbled across it. It was tricky because I had no visual sighting, but all the more rewarding. That was my "spark bird" of bird song, and since then I've made it a goal to learn more and more songs!

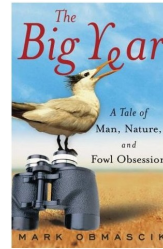
**-Let go, and have fun.** While I think we would all like to improve our birding skills, whether it be visual or auditory identification, sometimes you've just got to let go of all that and enjoy the birds for what they are, whether you know them or not. This will add greater depth and appreciation to a hobby that is already rewarding to you.

Heather Aubke  
-Albany

*HEATHER OF THE HILLS*  
A grown up kid enjoying nature's playground

*Editor's Note: Read more of Heather's writings on her blog "Heather of the Hills" ([heather-heatherofthehills.blogspot.com/](http://heather-heatherofthehills.blogspot.com/)). You'll also see video of an Eastern Phoebe building a nest.*

## EXTRA, EXTRA: I WANT TO BE AN EXTRA IN THE BIG YEAR MOVIE!



According to “The Hollywood Reporter”, Mark Obmascik's book *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession*, is headed to the big screen. The book details the costly, informal, highly-competitive, year-long quest to see the most birds in North America. As you may recall, native Ohioan Greg Miller was one of the top three contenders in 1998.

Directed by David Frankel (“The Devil Wears Prada”), and co-produced by actor-director-writer Ben Stiller (“Tropic Thunder”), filming is set to begin in May in Vancouver. At least cinematographers won't have to travel far to film a Sky Lark!

If you've read the book, imagine this cast: the physical comedy genius of Jack Black (“School of Rock”) as Greg Miller, the likeable leading “everyman” Owen Wilson (“Marley & Me”) as Al Levantin, and the inimitable Steve Martin (“Dirty Rotten Scoundrels”) as Sandy Komito.



## CONSERVATION HEROS OF LEIC-BSC

The Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy (LEIC-BSC) has a ten-year record of doing good things. Now, thanks to a double award from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, two of their committed volunteers have received statewide recognition.

Lisa Brohl, LEIC-BSC chair, and Kristin Stanford, LEIC-BSC board member, were honored in March at the Wildlife Diversity Conference. ODNR officials praised Brohl for 10 years of “tireless dedication to conserving unique habitats and wildlife on our Lake Erie Islands” and Stanford for “distinguished service in conservation of Ohio's wildlife resources” saving a bed of mussels at the Middle Bass marina.



Lisa Brohl (left) and Kristin Stanford (right).  
Photo courtesy Debbie Woischke, LEIC-BSC.



## FRIENDS OF MAGEE MARSH

*"Would you believe in love at first sight? Yes, I'm certain that it happens all the time."*

Lennon & McCartney might not have envisioned Magee Marsh Wildlife Area when they penned the lyrics to the Beatles' 1967 hit *"With A Little Help From My Friends"*. But they could have. The migratory hotspot in northwest Ohio has inspired instant 'love of place' among countless birders on their initial foray along the famed Magee Marsh/Crane Creek boardwalk east of Toledo.



Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center. Photo courtesy *The Friends of Magee Marsh* ([www.friendsofmageemarsh.org/birding.php](http://www.friendsofmageemarsh.org/birding.php)).

Magee Marsh "gets by with a little help" from its' friends... *The Friends of Magee Marsh*. The group, incorporated in 1997, supports The Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and The Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center. With more than 200 members from 15 states and Canada, the group has broad, enthusiastic support and many dedicated volunteers.

*The Friends* operate a bookstore inside the Bird Center, just off of Route 2. The bookstore carries unique, beautiful, and educational items including shirts, hats, pins, patches, field guides, greeting cards, and more. Other popular gifts are the "Magee Marsh Magic" cookbook and hand painted bird ornaments.



"Tsweet, tsweet, tsweet, tsweet, tsweet, tsweet" gifts such as a Prothonotary Warbler pin and 2008 patch featuring a Magnolia Warbler. Photo courtesy *The Friends of Magee Marsh*.

**All bookstore proceeds are used for projects at Magee Marsh:** benches along the boardwalk, the warbler identification display at the west end of the boardwalk, the pull-offs along the entry road, the weather station, and the landscaping around the bird center. *The Friends* also fund boardwalk repairs and improvements enjoyed by thousands.



Kelly Riccetti admires the warbler display at the Magee Marsh boardwalk west entrance during the Midwest Birding Symposium in September. Photo courtesy Heather Aubke.

If you'll be birding the Magee Marsh boardwalk this spring for International Migratory Bird Day, the Biggest Week in American Birding, or any other day, please stop by the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center. Become a member of *The Friends of Magee Marsh* or make a donation. *The Friends* offer hot coffee and donuts on spring weekends for birders to enjoy as they browse the gift shop, observe the bird feeders, or wait in line for the indoor bathrooms.



Magee Marsh boardwalk. Photo courtesy Ethan Kistler.

Submitted by Edna Armstrong on behalf of FOMM

*Editor's Note: FOMM needs help pulling Garlic Mustard at Magee Marsh WA. Meet at the boardwalk west entrance from 1-4 pm on the following days: April 27-29, May 4-6, May 18-20, and May 25-27. Bring gloves! Even an hour of your time will help! NO invasive weed eradication during the Biggest Week in American Birding (May 6-16).*

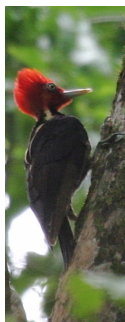
## WATERFOWL SYMPOSIUM AT THE GRANGE AUDUBON INSURANCE CENTER



Top row, left to right: 1.) Ohio Army National Guard Major Randy Rogers and keynote speaker Dr. Azzam Alwash of Nature Iraq finally meet face-to-face in Columbus at the Waterfowl Symposium after years of email correspondence furthering Iraqi conservation, 2.) evening banquet at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center (note the specially designed glass decals on the upper windows to reduce bird strikes), 3.) Columbus Audubon President & symposium co-chair Julie Davis congratulates Dr. Alwash on the funds raised by event attendees to further conservation efforts by Nature Iraq. Bottom row, left to right: 1.) youth scholarship recipient Kelley Spicer flanked by her parents during the Sunday morning field trip to Green Lawn Cemetery shortly after spotting her "life" Merlin, 2.) Friday evening "Taste of the Middle East" at GIAC before the musical performance of *The Swinging Orangutangs*, 3.) youth scholarship recipient Lukas Padegimas gets one-on-one attention from guest speaker & Spectacled Eider researcher Dr. Gwen Myers of the Columbus Zoo. All photos courtesy Ann Oliver.



## MOT-MOTS, MARKETS, & MAYANS: OOS BIRDERS VISIT GUATEMALA



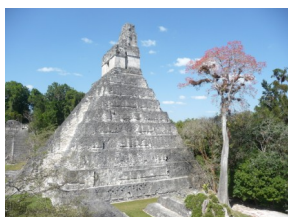
Pale-billed Woodpecker:  
*Campephilus guatemalensis*  
is in the same genus as the  
Ivory-billed Woodpecker.  
Photo courtesy Dave Helm.

Our trip was a joy! Everyone was delightful and our bird guide, Hugo Haraldo Enriquez, is very good. Indeed, *all* the additional “local” guides were excellent and the places selected were top of the line. We never had any concern regarding security: everywhere we went was either guarded, gated, or guided. Our driver, Fidel, kept watch over our belongings when we birded from the van on unscheduled stops.

We birded several private reserves: the first, Molina Helvetia, is a former wheat farm turned nature retreat. Los Andes, a working coffee and tea plantation, is on the side of Agua Volcano: 60% is set aside as a preserve so only 40% is in cultivation. Los Tarrales is a huge preserve in one family for generations: it’s essentially the entire side of a volcano! Another day, the Fuego Volcano belches steam and smoke every 20 minutes.



Guatemalan hospitality.  
Photo courtesy Dave Helm.

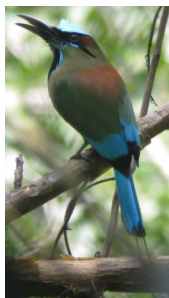


Mayan Temple at Tikal National Park.  
Photo courtesy Dave Helm.

Birding in Tikal: great birds, magnificent Mayan Temples. *Tikal is pandemonium with back-to-back birds!* In all, we tallied 315 species total for the trip, 34 of which can also be found in the US.

Dave and DeeAnne Helm, *Cincinnati*

*Editor’s Note: You can have your own “resplendent adventure” and see a Resplendent Quetzal or Blue-crowned Motmot with OOS this fall. A second excursion to Guatemala has been scheduled for November 7-16, 2010: we’re offering this opportunity because of a wait-list from the recent March trip. The 9-day adventure is all-inclusive (except for your own personal flight/transportation between the US/Guatemala). Double accommodation: \$2,400. Single accommodation: \$2,600. For more information: email [cerulean1@ohiobirds.org](mailto:cerulean1@ohiobirds.org). Please mention “OOS Guatemala Trip” in the subject line.*



Blue-crowned Motmot.  
Photo courtesy Jen Sauter.

## COMINGS & GOINGS & THANKS!

Ever wonder who keeps track of membership information and membership renewal dates? Some very dedicated OOS volunteers, that’s who!

For the past several years, Andrea Cook has done a bang-up job as our Membership Coordinator. You probably also saw Andrea’s friendly face at our OOS display booth at special events. She volunteered hundreds of hours with our organization: we say a B-I-G THANK YOU to Andrea as she takes on a new career move requiring more of her time!

We welcome the keen organizational skills of Barb Fate into the Membership Coordinator spot. Barb was one of the key co-chairs of the recent Waterfowl Symposium at GIAC. Barb is already at work updating our member email list. Would you please take a moment and send her your updated email address: [oosmember@gmail.com](mailto:oosmember@gmail.com). Thanks in advance! ***Pssst: renewing promptly helps us greatly!***

## OOS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*The OOS needs you!* For our organization to continue to fulfill our mission, we need more volunteers! *What is the mission of OOS?* Our mission statement says: “Welcoming backyard birdwatchers and researchers in the field alike, the OOS is the only statewide organization specifically devoted to fostering a deeper appreciation of wild birds, fellowship and collaboration in advancing our collective knowledge about them, and our ability to speak with one voice to preserve Ohio’s bird habitat.”

If you have a few hours on Saturday, May 8th, and if you’ll be at Magee Marsh, please help us with our booth. We’re also keen on starting a core group of volunteers and we need a volunteer coordinator! It’s a great way to help birds and meet birders from around the state. Remember, you don’t have to be an expert to contribute to birding in Ohio. Send an email to [cerulean1@ohiobirds.org](mailto:cerulean1@ohiobirds.org). Please mention “**OOS Volunteers**” in the subject line.

## WHEN IS THE ANNUAL MEETING? DID I MISS IT?

We hope to be able to announce the 2010 annual meeting in the summer newsletter. We’ll finalize details very soon. Watch for an announcement on the Ohio birds listserv, too. See you there!

## THE OOS SURVEY SAYS...

The OOS thanks all forty people who participated in our online survey between November and February. Ninety percent of respondents were members, 28% have attended at least four OOS events in the last 5 years, and 62 % were male. Ten people described their skills as “intermediate” birders, five as “intermediate to advanced”, ten as “advanced”, and three people described themselves as “expert”.

Here is a sample of findings on OOS’s primary mission. **Ranked “critically important”:** support of *The Cardinal* (41%) . **Ranked “very important”:** advancing knowledge about birds (55%), statewide field trips (50%), raising money for conservation (40%), conferences & symposia (40%), highlight efforts/research work of birding community (38%). **Ranked “important”:** promoting birding to non-birders (55%), educating members about birds (38%), *The Cerulean Newsletter* (36%).

Favorite reasons for being a member. **Ranked “very important”:** connection to Ohio birding events (48%), enhance birding skills (45%), fun & informative (44%), camaraderie with birders (40%), enlarges circle of birding companions (36%). **Ranked “important”:** *The Cerulean Newsletter* (43%), learning potential at conferences/symposia (43%), helpful website & interactive forum (42%).

Comments ranged from complimentary to highly critical. Here’s a random sample. “Support land conservation!” “Your symposiums and communications (printed & web) are excellent.” “OOS needs to be more pro-active in bird conservation”. “A monthly e-letter about conservation efforts would be great.” “Include bird photography.” “The OOS tries to do too much & ends up doing very little well. If the OOS could focus on birds & bird-related research & fieldwork, including casual & serious field work, that would be a good first step. OOS tries too hard to be everything to everybody.” “Add the ability to join, renew, & register for conferences online.” “Reestablish The Ohio Cardinal as a viable journal. These are critical times for bird populations.” “Expand volunteer opportunities.” “Be more inclusive.” “Centrally located weekend field trips with easy travel time.” “Should entice birders from other states to visit Ohio, bring attention to plight & conservation status of Ohio birds.”

## HUESTON WOODS SP HOSTS FAMILY BIRD FESTIVAL

May 15—Oxford: The 3rd Annual *Queen City Bird Festival* returns to Hueston Woods State Park outside of Oxford for a day of family focused birding. Children’s activities include observation of bird banding, face painting, and “fill the bill” which teaches how specialized beaks are used for various food sources



Photo courtesy of Avian Research & Education Institute.  
[www.avianinstitute.com/](http://www.avianinstitute.com/)

Adults can enjoy bird walks or seminars on beginning birding, birding by ear, and bird photography. Key-note speaker is Thane Maynard, Director of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.



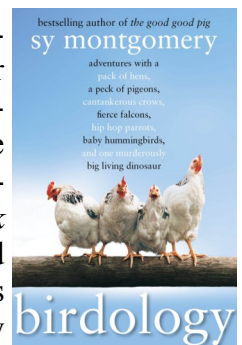
## TRIO OF EVENTS AT THE WILDS

*Avian Photography Workshop: May 21-23.* Learn photo techniques from expert photographers and build a portfolio of bird images and grassland landscapes. \$299: includes instruction, meals, lodging.  
*Raptor Photo Shoot: May 23.* Opportunity to photograph birds of prey from The Columbus Zoo. A portion of the fee supports raptor conservation. \$99.  
*Birding By Ear Weekend: June 4-6.* Open to all skill levels of birders. See abundant grassland birds, connect habitats with inhabitants, and learn bird vocalizations. \$ 175: includes meals and lodging.

*The Wilds* is in Cumberland, Ohio: [thewilds.org](http://thewilds.org)

## CONSERVATION LECTURE: BIRD“OLOGY” IS THE WORD

May 26—Columbus: Sy Montgomery is the first guest speaker of the 2010 Columbus Zoo Conservation Lecture Series at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Described by the *New York Times* as “equal parts poet and scientist” and the *Boston Globe* as “part Indiana Jones part Emily Dickinson,” Montgomery’s new book tells tales of bashing through the Australian rainforest to meet the most dangerous bird in the world, the 150-pound Cassowary.



“BIRD“OLOGY: Adventures with a pack of hens, a peck of pigeons, cantankerous crows, fierce falcons, hip hop parrots, baby hummingbirds, and one murderously big living dinosaur.”



## MEMBERS' CORNER



### Thank you for your donations!

We would like to thank and acknowledge the following members who have given generous donations. These donations have been deposited into the Ohio Ornithological Society's Conservation & Education Fund. These funds will be used towards promoting conservation, education and research of Ohio's avifauna. Thank you!

Carol Bretz    Bob Hopp    Steve Miller  
Attendees at the Waterfowl Symposium

### Welcome New Members!

We would like to welcome our new members who have joined us since our last issue:

Harris Abramson	Sallie Parker-Lotz
Ann Conner	John Moore
Chris Decker	Robert & Mary Ann Riggs
Steve Henthorne	Eileen Roberts
Linnett Leisner	Charles Shepherd, Sr.

### Thanks For Waterfowl Symposium Sponsorship & Donations!

Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, Eagle Optics, Mike Maier Photography, Midwest Birding Symposium, North Dakota Pothole & Prairie Birding Festival, Sally Deems-Mogyordy, Greater Mohican Audubon Society, Black Swamp Birding (Dana Bollin), Local Patch Birding (Jen Brumfield & Gabe Leidy), Columbus Audubon, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, Mendocino Brewing Company, The Swinging Orangutangs, Wild Birds Unlimited (Riverside Dr., Columbus).

## Online Subscription Available!

Thanks for your support!

Please consider subscribing to the online newsletter. Get the latest issue delivered directly to your email. Don't wait on snail mail! Plus, you'll save a tree or two in the process.

Email OOS Member Coordinator Barb Fate:

[OOS@columbus.rr.com](mailto:OOS@columbus.rr.com)

## THE CERULEAN

THE CERULEAN is the official newsletter of the Ohio Ornithological Society (OOS). THE CERULEAN is published four times a year. It contains timely information regarding upcoming field trips and meetings, recent bird sightings and current hot spots, trip reports, as well as other pertinent birding information. A subscription to THE CERULEAN is included among the benefits of the OOS. Members of the OOS are encouraged to contribute announcements, articles, photographs, drawings, and other birding related information to the newsletter. Seasonal deadlines for contributions to THE CERULEAN are as follows:

- Spring: 1 March
- Summer: 1 June
- Fall: 1 September
- Winter: 1 December

Send contributions for the newsletter to [cerulean1@ohiobirds.org](mailto:cerulean1@ohiobirds.org), or by regular mail to THE CERULEAN, c/o OOS, P.O. Box 14051, Columbus, Ohio 43214. For more information see the Publications page on the OOS web site at [www.ohiobirds.org](http://www.ohiobirds.org). Because the newsletter is sent as bulk mail, the Post Office will not forward this newsletter to a new address. **Please notify Barb Fate, OOS Membership Coordinator, at [OOS@columbus.rr.com](mailto:OOS@columbus.rr.com) if you have moved.**

Editor- -Ann Oliver

## Calendar of Events

**Summit Metro Parks Morning Bird Walks: April through May 21.** 7:30 am every Friday at Akron's Firestone MP.

**The Biggest Week in American Birding: May 6-16, 2010.** Join Black Swamp Bird Observatory for birding along Lake Erie during spring migration. Advance registration required for all events including keynote speakers, workshops, half-day trips, & free daily bird walks on the Magee Marsh boardwalk and Ottawa NWR. Info: [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/)

**Kelleys Island 17th Annual "Nest With The Birds": May 9-15.** Daily guided bird walks and evening American Woodcock watch. Information: [www.kelleysislandnature.com/nature\\_events/nest\\_with\\_the\\_birds.htm](http://www.kelleysislandnature.com/nature_events/nest_with_the_birds.htm)

**"Climate Change & Birds" at Maumee Bay State Park at 8am, May 22:** Free lecture at the Maumee Bay State Park Nature Center presented by Staff Naturalist Supervisor Dana Bollin (OOS Northwest Regional Director).

**"Bird Portraits & Natural Landscapes" at Troy's Brukner Nature Preserve: now through June 20.** Photography exhibit by Master Bird Bander Tim Tolford. Sales benefit Brukner Nature Preserve & the Hummer/Bird Research Collaborative (HBRC). Information: [www.bruknernaturecenter.com/](http://www.bruknernaturecenter.com/) or [www.hbrnet.org/](http://www.hbrnet.org/)

**Cerulean Warbler Weekend in Barry County, Michigan: June 2-4.** Presented by Michigan Audubon at the Otis Farm Bird Sanctuary. Information: <http://ceruleanwarbler.org/>

# Ohio Ornithological Society Membership Application

For an online version of this application visit: [www.ohiobirds.org/join.php](http://www.ohiobirds.org/join.php)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(For electronic news updates, special events, and field trips)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Donation Amount - Additional donation to the OOS Conservation Fund!**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Dues

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment Enclosed (Please make checks payable to OOS)

How did you hear of OOS? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in:

☐ Volunteering? How? ☐ Distributing OOS flyers within your club or community?

- ☐ \$15 Student/Limited Income
- ☐ \$25 Individual
- ☐ \$40 Family or Nonprofit
- ☐ \$100 Patron or Business
- ☐ \$250 Sustaining Member
- ☐ \$500 Benefactor
- ☐ \$1,000 Lifetime Benefactor

**Mail to: Ohio Ornithological Society ♦ P.O. Box 14051 ♦ Columbus, Ohio 43214**



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**OUR MISSION . . .**  
Welcoming backyard birdwatchers and researchers in the field alike, the Ohio Ornithological Society is the only statewide organization specifically devoted to fostering a deeper appreciation of wild birds, fellowship and collaboration in advancing our collective knowledge about them, and our ability to speak with one voice to preserve Ohio's bird habitats.

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